

WEEK 3 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

I can be wise by choosing to do good.

THE BIBLE

Wisdom and Actions:
Psalm 1; James 3:13-18

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Wor-Ship Shanties

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "True North" (Rend Co. Kids)
 - "Make Right Choices" (LifeKids)
 - "Wise Up" (Kidspring)
 - "My Lighthouse" (Rend Co. Kids)

ACTIVITY | Eye Patch Plank Walk

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids an eye patch to cover one of their eyes. Set up a four-inch-wide plank somewhere in your room. Encourage the kids to help each other walk across the plank safely. You can choose an adult or a kid who will be responsible to guide the others one at a time to where they need to go.
- Even though it didn't happen very often, some pirates were forced to walk across a long piece of wood and jump straight into the ocean! **Do you know what this long piece of wood is called?** It's called a plank!
- That must have been really scary to walk on this piece of wood and jump into the water below! But the pirates who walked the plank were the ones who didn't make very wise choices. Today, we're going to learn about another wise choice we can make!

ACTIVITY | Captain's Orders

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have Captain Solly (the Big Idea character) lead this activity. Instruct the captain to demonstrate each of the commands below. Then, start the game. The captain will call out any one of the commands at a time and the kids have to remember what to do for each command. Have Captain Solly gradually call out the commands faster and faster!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have the kids use large blocks or chairs to build their own boat. While on the boat, go through each of the commands together as a group.
- Oy, me hearties! Well, you done it. This ship is nowhere near ready to sail! But don't worry, Cap'n Solly is here. Just follow me orders and you'll be fine. Each time I say one of the special pirate commands, ye must do what I show you.
 - **Swab the deck:** Pretend to mop.
 - **Shark attack:** Dance and sing the song, "Baby Shark."
 - **Sailor overboard:** Pretend to swim around.
 - **Drop anchor:** Lie on their backs with legs up and act like an anchor.
 - **Row to shore:** Pretend to row a boat while singing, "Row, row, row your boat."
- Well done, lassies and laddies . . . ye are all in ship-shape now!

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Wisdom and Actions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create another large boat outline on the floor using tape where the kids can sit inside. Set up the two planks like last week to share today's Bible story from Psalm 1, using an easy-to-understand translation such as NIV or CEV. You can also show this [video](#) that explains Psalm 1.
- [Read verse one.]
 - **What are some things that make you happy?**
 - This verse tells us that we will be happier – and it will make God happy – when we do what is right rather than what everyone else is doing, especially when what they're doing is not the right choice.
- [Read verse two.]
 - **Who remember's what God's law is?**
 - Exactly! God's law is any instruction that God gives in the Bible. These instructions help to keep us safe.
 - Someone who loves God's word will spend more time doing what it says. That sounds like a wise decision, don't you think?
- [Read verse three.]
 - **If you were a tree, would you want to be by a small river or in a desert?**
 - If you were a tree, you would want to be near water because that means you would get plenty of water to help you grow!
 - When we listen to God and choose to do what God wants us to do, we are like this strong tree by the water. We will grow and grow!

- *[Read verses four through six.]*
 - **What happens to leaves on the ground on a windy day?**
 - They fly away! Someone who disobeys God and doesn't love God's word is like a plant with no root that can easily be blown away.
- Today's Bible story has shown us that we can know the difference between good choices and not-so-good choices by learning from God's word!
- Okay, it's time to choose our wise adventure by walking one of these two planks:
- **Should we walk . . .**
 1. **The Wise Plank and spend more time with God and learn what the Bible says?**
Or . . .
 2. **The Unwise Plank and do whatever we think is right without asking God first?**

BIG IDEA | I can be wise by choosing to do good.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the pirate ship mast from last week and add today's Big Idea to the sail. Ask the same volunteer to play the part of Captain Solly to reveal the Big Idea.
- Avast, ye! It's Captain Solly again with another Big Idea this week! Cap'n Solly spends most days on me ship lookin' at the briny deep from the crow's nest and searching for doubloons. Well, yesterday us buccaneers mapped a treasure out and, shiver me timbers! The loot was huge! Now me has to choose what to do with me doubloons. What's a pirate to do: Use the doubloons to buy me a shiny, new ship, or help me other mateys out? Let's see our new Big Idea!
- **Which deckhand will come help me to set sail today?** *[Choose a volunteer to come help reveal the Big Idea on the sail.]*
- Our Big Idea today is: **I can be wise by choosing to do good.**

VIDEO | Choose Your Own Adventure, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Wisdom Watcher

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have supplies for each kid to make a telescope ([like this](#)). Start with an empty paper towel roll. Cover the roll with black construction paper. Fasten the paper to the roll with tape. Use gold duct tape for the ends and a couple stripes in the middle. Be sure not to cover the ends so the kids can see through the rolls. Use a silver permanent marker or a white paint pen to write "Wisdom Watcher" on the side.
- We can help each other to do good by helping each other make wise choices.
- Use these "wisdom watchers" to look out for each other and look for ways to do good!
- **I can be wise by choosing to do good.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for showing us all the ways we can do good for you and others. Help us to choose what is good instead of what is easy by spending more time learning about you. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Peg Legs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out pretzel rods to the kids. As they eat, tell some pirate jokes. Here are a few examples:
- **When is the best time to buy a pirate ship?** When it's on sail.
- **What did the ocean say to the captain of the pirate ship?** Nothing! The ocean just waved.
- **Why does it take pirates so long to learn the alphabet?** Because they can spend years at C (sea).
- **What does a pirate call their leg?** Peggy.

ACTIVITY | Cannonball Bounce

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line up two sets of five plastic cups on a table. Encourage the kids to take turns playing this game by having them line up behind each set of cups. Use black ping-pong balls to bounce into each cup. The first person to get a "cannonball" in each cup wins. Use this [video](#) for reference.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of bouncing the "cannonballs" into the cups, have the kids take turns running the cannonballs from one end of your space to the next and dropping them into the cups. Or use large buckets and jelly balls, instead.
- Getting the ball into the cup was pretty tricky, right? But it felt so good when a ball finally got into the cup!
- Choosing to do good is not always easy, but when we do it, it will feel wonderful! But more than that, God will be so happy that we chose to be wise instead of taking the easy way out.
- **I can be wise by choosing to do good.**

ACTIVITY | My Good Pirate

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paper bag and the printable. Instruct the kids to color each piece. Help them cut out each piece (or precut them beforehand) and glue them to the paper bag.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Pre-assemble the pirates ahead of time so that the toddlers will only have to color.
- **What are some good or kind things you can do that would show you (and your pirate) how to choose to obey God?**
- On the back of your good pirate, write or draw some good things you can do!

MEMORY VERSE | Overboard

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using sidewalk chalk, draw four simple boat shapes on the ground. In each boat, write part of the memory verse. Encourage the kids to take turns jumping overboard from one ship to the next, saying the memory verse as they jump.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse!*

ACTIVITY | Pirate Play-Doh

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Let the kids create their own gold coins using yellow or gold Play-Doh and round cookie cutters.*

ACTIVITY | Pirate Parade

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide pirate-themed dress up clothes for the kids to dress up in. Have them march around and yell out some pirate words!*

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.